

PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Bjorn PAULSHUS et al.	)	Group Art Unit No: 3637
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Serial No:	09/871,608	)	Examiner: Chi Q NGUYEN
		)	
Filed:	May 31, 2001	)	Attorney Docket No. 7822-82871
		)	
For:	TENSION MEMBER	)	Confirmation No. 1151

**CLEAN VERSION OF ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS**

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (3).

Each claim of the clean version of the entire set of claims begins on a separate page in order to facilitate optical scanning of the claims by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

01 11. (Amended) A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner continuous cavity adapted to receive a plurality of strands, said cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

12. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

A1  
cont

13. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

A1  
Cont

14. The tension member according to claims 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements or their adjoining surfaces.

At  
Cont

15. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

As  
Cont

16. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

As  
cont

17. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

A7  
Cont



18. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the strands are to be coiled.

al  
cont

19. The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.

A1  
cont

New Patent Claims

1.

A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments (21) gathered into a plurality of strands (20) in which the filaments (21) run close together, around which strands (5) there is provided a protective sheath (16), characterized in that between at least some of the strands (20) and the protective sheath (29) there are provided spacing elements (25, 30), which spacing elements (25, 30) define an inner cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands (20), and that each strand (20) is coated on the exterior thereof with a sheath (22) of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands (20) to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

2.

The tension member according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

3.

The tension member according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) are provided with recesses (26), which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands (20).

4.

The tension member according to claim 3, characterized in that the spacing elements (25, 30) are equipped with complementary locking elements (27, 28) on their adjoining surfaces.

5.

The tension member according to one of the claims 1 - 4, characterized in that at least one of the spacing elements (30) comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

6.

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The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the spacing elements (25) consist of PVC.

7.

The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 6, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the spacing elements (25) consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

8.

The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 7, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the filaments (21) are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the strands (20) are to be coiled.

9.

The tension member according to one of the claims 1 – 9, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the strands (20) are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member (20) is to be coiled.

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